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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

18 PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY,) Case No. 25-1429
19 Plaintiff,)
20 v.)
21 NETFLIX, INC. and WARNER)
BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.)
22 Defendants.)
23)
24)

**DECLARATION OF AVIV S.
HALPERN IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**

DECLARATION OF AVIV S. HALPERN

1 I, Aviv S. Halpern, declare and state as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney admitted to the Bar of the State of California and to the Bar of this
3 Court. I am an associate at the law firm Sullivan& Cromwell LLP, counsel for Plaintiff Pepperdine
4 University (“Pepperdine”) in the above-captioned action. I respectfully submit this Declaration in
5 support of Plaintiff’s Memorandum of Points & Authorities in Support of Plaintiff’s Motion for
6 Temporary Restraining Order, dated February 20, 2025. I have personal knowledge of the facts
7 set forth in this declaration and, if called to testify, I could and would competently testify hereto.

8 2. Pepperdine is the registered owner of several uncontested federal registrations for
9 its WAVES trademarks. Pepperdine is the registered owner of U.S. Reg. Nos. 2,668,597, which
10 was issued on December 31, 2002; 2,967,811, which was issued on July 12, 2005; and 2,903,783,
11 which was issued on November 16, 2004. A true and correct copy of the U.S. Registration
12 Certificates and their declarations of uncontestedness and notices of acknowledgement are attached
13 hereto as **Exhibits A, B, and C**, respectively.

14 3. Attached hereto as **Exhibit D** is a true and correct copy of screen captures taken
15 directly from Defendants’ published *Running Point* trailer, posted January 30, 2025. The trailer
16 bears the Netflix logo in the upper right-hand corner and can be found in full at *Running Point*,
17 *Official Trailer*, Netflix, YOUTUBE (Jan. 30, 2025), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thA5bHMjOI4>.

18 4. Attached hereto as **Exhibit E** is a true and correct copy of a screen capture of a
19 social media post from a user on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter). The
20 post is dated January 30, 2025 at 3:58 PM, which is shortly after the release of the *Running Point*
21 trailer on January 30, 2025. The post states: “Did nobody at Netflix think to check whether
22 someone (anyone!) already held a trademark on that particular WAVES logo in blue and orange?”

23 5. Below is a true and correct copy of a screen capture showing Google search results
24 from a search conducted at my direction. The search consisted of the phrase “what basketball
25 teams are in Los Angeles?” and the results list the Pepperdine Waves and include a logo.

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Google what basketball teams are in Los Angeles? Tools

All Images News Shopping Videos Web Forums More

Basketball teams in Los Angeles

From sources across the web

 LA Clippers	 Los Angeles Lakers	 Long Beach State 49ers
 Los Angeles Dodgers	 Loyola Marymount Lions	 Sacramento Kings
 UCLA Bruins	 USC Trojans	 Cal State Northridge Ma...
 Golden State Warriors	 Waves	

6. Below is a true and correct copy of a screen capture showing Google search results from a search conducted at my direction. The search consisted of the phrase "Los Angeles waves basketball" and the first result is for the Pepperdine Waves basketball program. Several other results also expressly mention or link to Pepperdine's Waves.

Google los angeles waves basketball

Pepperdine University Athletics

Men's Basketball

The official Men's Basketball page for the Pepperdine University Waves.

Basketball Schedule Basketball: Roster Women's Basketball Story Archives

FOX Sports

pepperdine waves conference standings

PEPPERDINE WAVES CONFERENCE STANDINGS : 1. Saint Mary's Gaels Saint Mary's - 10-0 ; 2. San Francisco Dons San Francisco - 8-3 ; 3. Gonzaga Bulldogs Gonzaga - 7-3.

People also ask :

Why is Pepperdine the waves?

Is Pepperdine University D1?

Does Nau have a basketball team?

Is Pepperdine a good school for basketball?

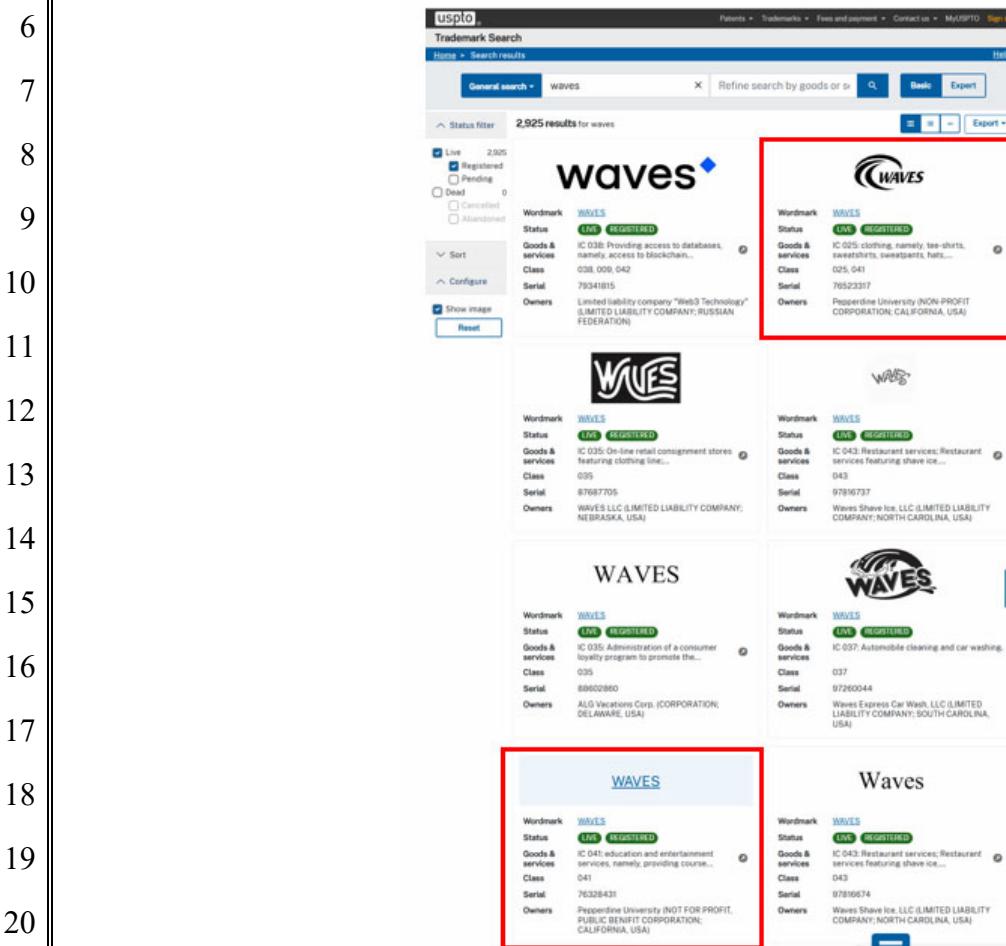
Feedback

The New York Times

Pepperdine Waves - News, Schedule, Scores, Roster, and ...

Breaking Pepperdine Waves news and in-depth analysis from the best newsroom in sports. Follow your favorite clubs. Get the latest injury updates, ...

1 7. Below is a true and correct copy of a screen capture (with two red annotations
 2 added) showing search results on the United States Patent and Trademark Office website from a
 3 search conducted at my direction. The search of registered trademarks consisted of the word
 4 “waves,” and two of Pepperdine’s trademarks appear on the first page of the results, as annotated
 5 in red.



22 8. I understand that Pepperdine engaged in good-faith discussions with Defendants in
 23 an effort to resolve this dispute out of court, but, as of the date of this Declaration, no resolution
 24 has been reached. I understand that on February 11, 2025, Pepperdine’s General Counsel reached
 25 out to Defendants and had an informal discussion with a representative from Warner Bros.

26 9. Attached hereto as **Exhibit F** is a true and correct copy of subsequent email
 27 communications between Pepperdine’s General Counsel and Warner Bros. counsel. Based on a
 28 review of those communications, on February 12, 2025, a Warner Bros. representative emailed

1 Pepperdine's General Counsel that the *Running Point* writers were "inspired by the Southern
2 California vibe" and that Warner Bros. had "confirmed the font/logo was an original creation of
3 [its] Art Director" and that the framed "37" jersey was "randomly" chosen as a "number[] that
4 [was] not tied to actual Lakers players." In separate email thread on February 14, 2025, the Warner
5 Bros. representative invited Pepperdine's General Counsel to a screening of the *Running Point*
6 series but did not indicate that Warner Bros. would consider delaying *Running Point*'s release or
7 altering the WAVES marks. Then, in a separate email thread on February 18, 2025, the Warner
8 Bros. representative contacted Pepperdine's General Counsel to cancel the scheduled pre-
9 screening.

10 10. Attached hereto as **Exhibit G** is a true and correct copy of a cease-and-desist letter
11 dated February 12, 2025 sent from Pepperdine's outside counsel to the Defendants and others,
12 describing the alleged infringement.

13 11. Attached hereto as **Exhibit H** is a true and correct copy of a letter following up on
14 the cease-and-desist letter sent dated February 17, 2025, sent from Pepperdine's outside counsel
15 to the Defendants and others.

16 12. Attached hereto as **Exhibit I** is a true and correct copy of a February 19, 2025 email
17 communication from a lawyer at the law firm Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu, P.C. ("Fross
18 Zelnick"), counsel to Warner Bros., and sent to Pepperdine's outside counsel in connection with
19 the cease-and-desist letter. The email indicates that Fross Zelnick "has just been retained by
20 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. in connection with your letters of February 12 and 17, 2025
21 (which our client only received yesterday). We are discussing the matter with our client and I
22 expect to be able to get you a substantive response soon."

23 13. I understand that, as of the date and time of this Declaration, Pepperdine has yet to
24 receive a substantive response to its February 12, 2025 cease-and-desist letter or to the
25 February 17, 2025 follow-up letter. I further understand that Pepperdine has not received any
26 indication that Netflix or Warner Bros. intend to delay the *Running Point* series release or
27 change/remove Pepperdine's mark.

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1 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
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3 Executed this 20 day of February, 2025 in Oakland, California.

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5 Aviv S. Halpern
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